

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/06123

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G01N 17/00; G01D 18/00
 US CL : 250/504R, 492.1; 73/865.6

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 250/504R, 492.1; 73/865.6

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| Y | US 6,285,137 (GROSSMAN et al) 04 September 2001 (04.09.2001), see entire document. | 1-11,13-25,27-34 |
| Y | US 5,476,636 (TOMIITA et al) 19 December 1995 (19.12.1995), see entire document. | 1-11,13-25,27-34 |
| Y | US 4,012,954 (KLIPPERT) 22 March 1977 (22.03.1977), see entire document. | 11 |
| Y | US 2002/0139928 (RATHOD et al) 03 October 2002 (03.10.2002), see entire document. <i>4817.447</i> | 1-11,13-25,27-34 |
| Y | US (KASHIMA et al) 04 April 1989 (04.04.1989), see entire document. | 1-11,13-25,27-34 |
| Y | US 5,646,358 (TIKHTMAN et al) 08 July 1997 (08.07.1997), see entire document. | 1-11,13-25,27-34 |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

02 November 2004 (02.11.2004)

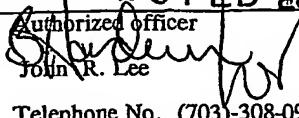
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